RATIONING OF KEROSENE OIL IN BRITISH MALABAR

399. Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that, for rationing kerosene oil in British Malabar families are grouped in three or four different classes according to status and necessity and that larger quantities are fixed for families requiring more. If, so, why such a desirable classification is not adopted in our State ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

No definite information is available about the practice in British Malabar.

SUGAR ALLOTTED TO MATTANCHERI

400. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the quantity of sugar allotted to Mattancheri town and constituency ;

(*b*) out of the quantity allotted in the months of January, February and March what quantities were actually supplied for distribution ;

(*c*) was the full quota allotment to Mattancheri supplied in the months of January, February and March 1945 ;

(*d*) what is the number of adults and children in Mattancheri Constituency ;

(*e*) what is the monthly quantity allowed per adult and per child ;

(*f*) is there any proposal to cut down the monthly supplies to the people ;

(*g*) if so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same ;

(*h*) what are the existing arrangements for obtaining sugar for consumption in the State and the sources whence supplies are drawn for the State;

(*i*) what steps have been taken to remedy the inadequate supply and to enhance the same and ensure an adequate supply of sugar for the people of Cochin.

(*j*) is the Government aware that when sugar was applied by the trade without control Mattancheri had never experienced any shortage and distributed sugar to many other places in South India ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a* to *c*) No separate quantity has been definitely allotted to the Mattancheri town or Constituency ; but about 477 bags were distributed in the Mattancheri Constituency in January, and about 203 bags in February 1945 to meet the requirements there. The figure for March is not available.

(*d*) 1,08,947 (as per census of 1941).

(*e* to *g*) There is only a uniform scale of ration for adult and child. The ration till now was 18 oz. per head per month. This ration is not issued in full where it is seen that the actual requirements are less. From 1st Meenam 1120 the scale of ration has been slightly altered to 16 oz. per head per month. The reason for the reduction is that the quantity of sugar expected to be available for distribution is likely to be less than that for last year.

(*h*) The Central Government through the Sugar Controller of India allot quotas for sugar to the State annually against which factories in Northern India make supplies the State. These are brought down direct by the Government and distribution is made though the Government Fair Price Shops.

(*i*) The requirements of the State have been repeatedly placed before the Central Government, the Sugar Controller and the other authorities concerned with the result that the quota which was only 2200 tons in 1942—43 was raised to 2900 tons afterwards. This was further raised to 3900 tons in 1943—44. The quota of the present year 1944—45 is the same as that for last year. Because of the representations we made our quota was not reduced even though there was general reduction in the quotas allotted to other areas in view of an anticipated reduction in the total out-put of sugar.

(*j*) Government information is that prior to the introduction of control of sugar by Government, there was a very acute shortage and scarcity for sugar in Mattancheri and all other parts of the State. The stocks were going underground and exorbitant prices were being realised by merchants. Government have no definite information as to whether the merchants were then distributing sugar to other places in South India and, if so, where those stocks proceeded from.

RICE PURCHASING WORK—OFFICERS APPOINTED

401. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of persons now engaged by the Government in the rice purchasing work and the places where they are now working ;

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